

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action mailed May 22, 2002, in which claims 6-10 were rejected. A petition for a one-month extension of time, extending the time for response from August 22, 2002 to and including September 22, 2002 is enclosed herewith.

In the Official Action, claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Henderson, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,551,218 ("*Henderson*"). It is stated in the Official Action that the examiner takes official notice of the equivalence of twine and wire for use in the wrapping art. Claim 6 has been amended to require that the feed wheel is a driven feed wheel and "said feed wheel being arranged upstream of the object to be bound." Claim 6 also requires separate measuring means that does not feed the wire. The present application describes the feed wheel as a wheel driven by a motor. See the present application at pg. 4, lns. 20-23. The feed wheel is located upstream from the object to be bound, as the wire enters the guide wheels 10, travels to the driven feed wheel 11, and is fed to the object to be bound 4. See the present application at pg. 4, lns. 24-33 and Fig. 1.

Henderson discloses a twine arm that is disposed adjacent the object to be bound. The twine arm rotates to wrap twine around the object. The twine arm pulls the twine in order to dispense enough twine to wrap the object. *Henderson* does not disclose or suggest a feed member located upstream of the object to be bound and a separate measuring means for measuring the amount of twine to be dispensed. The Official Action states that twine and wire are equivalent in the art. However, substituting wire in the apparatus of *Henderson* does not result in the claimed invention. There is no suggestion in *Henderson* of utilizing a driven feed wheel upstream of the object to be

bound, or such a driven feed wheel in combination with a separate measuring means.

① In addition, claim 6 requires that the feed wheel feeds and stretches the wire. The present application discloses that after the wire is disposed around the object to be wrapped, the servomotor 13, which drives the feeding wheel 11, is reversed. See the present application at pg. 5, lns. 1-6. Henderson does not disclose a driven wheel for feeding and stretching wire, and does not disclose or teach the combination of features discussed above. Thus, for all the reasons discussed above, claims 6-10 are patentable over Henderson.

② Henderson does not teach or suggest the invention of claim 6, as a whole. Furthermore, the twine velocity sensor 150 disclosed by Henderson could not be used in an apparatus according to claim 6. Using such a sensor 150 would necessitate wrapping the wire around the clamp member 168, around the pulley 160, and again around the clamp member 168. See Henderson at col. 11, lns. 38-41. The wire in the present application could not be wrapped around such a sensor and fed by the driven feed wheel required by claim 6, as the wire would jam in the sensor.

The Official Action notes that Todd, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,195,967 ("Todd") discloses a wrapping machine using measured amounts of wire. However, this reference is not prior art for the present application. The present application was filed under 35 U.S.C. § 363 and claims the benefit of Swedish Application No. 9702406-1, filed June 23, 1997. Todd was not filed until November 3, 1998 and did not issue until March 6, 2001.

Applicants have added new claims 11-24. Claims 11-15 depend directly or indirectly upon claim 6. These claims are patentable over Henderson for the reasons discussed above. Claim 16 is directed to a method of binding an object, requiring the steps of feeding a predetermined amount of wire and

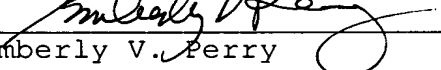
measuring the amount of wire, stretching the wire and disposing the wire on an object. As discussed above, *Henderson* does not disclose stretching wire and disposing wire on the object to be wrapped. Claims 17-24 depend from claim 16. Thus, claims 16-24 are patentable over *Henderson* for the reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully solicit reconsideration of all the pending claims and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the pending claims.

If any fee is due in connection with this response, the Examiner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 12 1095 therefor. If this response raises any issues, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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